### Vol. XXXVIII ... No. 11,765.

### PUSHING WORK IN CONGRESS

THE CIPHER PLOT ALONE NEGLECTED. PRAT IMPORTANT TOPIC THE POTTER COMMITTEE EVINCES A WONDERFUL REPUGNANCE TO TOUCH -TWO MORE APPROPRIATION BILLS PASSED-

GENERAL NEWS. The Potter Committee, which met yesterday, avoided all reference to the damaging cipher exposures made by THE TRIBUNE. The general work of Congress is rapidly going forward. The various investigating committees are all at work. Yesterday the House passed two more of the appropriation bills, and two others are nearly ready for action. The Senate discussed the Electoral bill. The nomination of Assistant-Treasurer Hillhouse was passed upon in committee favorably, and some names of postmasters were confirmed. The Tribune special dispatches present some interesting statements to-day about how the Southern States are thought of in Europe, harbor improvements around New-York, and political

#### MR. CORBIN ENTITLED TO A SEAT. M. C. BUILER NEVER LEGALLY ELECTED-A FORTH-COMING REPORT ON THE SUBJECT.

1BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.-It was generally understood before Congress adjourned last Summer that the Republican members of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections would sign a report declaring that Mr. D. T. Corbin, of South Carolina, is entitled to the seat in the Senate now occupied by General M. C. Butler. Such a report will undoubtedly be presented during the present session, and an attempt will be made to secure a vote upon it.

The question at issue in this contest is simply whether the Legislature which elected Corbin, or that which chose Butler was the lawful Legislature of the State, or whether either was when the elections were respectively hold. After a careful study of the history of the case, the Committee on Privileges and Elections is understood to have arrived at the following conclusions:

First-That the Senate of the Chamberlain Legislature was unquestionably the legal Senate of the State. There was no other.

Second-That there were no representatives from Edgefield and Laurens Counties in the Lower House of either of the rival Legislatures, because no certificates of election according to the law and usage of the State had been issued to anybody from these counties, and the Clerk of the House had no right to place the names of any persons upon the roll of the House as representatives from those counties.

Third-It follows that the fifty-nine members of the House of Representatives who met in the State Honse at Columbia and organized with E. W. M. Mackey as Speaker, were lawfully convened and organized, and under the Constitution of South Carplina constituted the lawful House of Representatives of that State. Although it contained less than a majority of all the possible members, it did contain a majority of all who were elected, and it for therefore had a quorum to do business, which unfler the laws of the State consisted not of a majority of all possible members, but a majority of the members chosen. The Senate and House which elected Mr. Corbin being, therefore, the lawful Legislature of the State, Mr. Corbin is the Senator.

But even if the Legislature which assembled in the State House was not the legal one, and Mr. Corbin was not regularly elected, the committee is unlerstood to hold that General Butler cannot retain his seat for these reasons:

First—There was no vacancy to be filled at the

time of his election, on December 19, 1876, as Mr. Corbin had been lawfully elected to said office on the 12th of December, 1876.

Second-The House of Representatives that asmmed to elect Mr. Butler, had no quorum at the time it was organized, and was never therefore a awful body. The additions made to it by recruits from the House of Representatives, assembled in the State House, did not make it a lawful body. If that House was a lawful body at its organization it would so remain, notwithstanding the absence of ive of its members. If by their absence it was reluced below a quorum, no business could be done except to adjourn or send for the absent members. But that House was not in fact at any time reduced below a quorum. It remained whole from the day of its organization, November 28, 1876, until Desember 22, 1876, following, when in connection

rember 22, 1876, following, when in connection with the Senate it adjourned.

Third-But admitting all that is claimed by Mr. Butler for the Wallace House, that it was lawfully prganized and had a quorum of the House present, still while this would myalidate the election of Mr. Corbin, it would not make valid Mr. Butler's election. The single and isolated House of Representatives of South Carolina cannot by any process of reasoning be held to constitute the Legislature of that State. The Constitution of that State requires a Senate and a House of Representatives for that purpose. But the Wallace House had no Senate to recognize it. It stood isolated and alone, and so standing it could originate no lawful action. It could no more elect a Senator than it could enact laws. It did not in fact during its whole session do any legislative act or pretend that it could do any. It recognized its own impotency in this respect, but, strange inconsistency, it made a dash at the election of a United States Senator.

Any attempt to seat Mr. Corbin during the present

of a United States Senator.

Any attempt to seat Mr. Corbin during the present session of Congress will certainly be stoutly opposed by the Democrats of the Senate, and will lead to an exciting debate.

#### NOT A WORD ABOUT THE CIPHERS. A MEETING OF THE POTTER COMMITTEE-THE DEM OCRATS SHUN THE TRIBUNE DYNAMITE WITH

EXTRAORDINARY CARE AND UNANIMITY. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 .- The Potter Committee held its first meeting of the session to-day, and from the beginning to the end of it there was an ominous silence about the cipher dispatches.

The Republican members of the committee had determined in advance that they should not call up the subject if the Democrats did not. Their position is that they are satisfied with the investigation of the Democratic frauds by THE TRIBUNE; that as the matter now stands the case is made out against Pelton, Marble and Smith Weed, as clearly and as conclusively as it can in all probability be made out by an official inquiry; and that if the Democrats are willing to leave it as it is, the Republicans do not object.

When, therefore, the general question was asked in the committee by the chairman to-day (without referring to cipher telegrams) if the Republicans had any suggestions to make in regard to the future proceedings of the committee, there was no response. The Democratic members of the committee decided that if Congress would grafft the money necessary to pay the expenses of such an expedition, they would send another sub-committee to New-Orleans to complete the work which was cut short by the outbreak of the yellow fever last Summer, and that Mr. Potter should act as chairman of it.

After the meeting of the committee was over, the three Republicans, Messrs. Hiscock, Reed and Cox, held a conference, at which Mr. Hiscock opposed pursuing the useless inquiries upon which the committee has thus far been engaged. He thought the country tired of the whole business, and that there is no occasion for the further expenditure of time and money in the useless hunt for Republican frauds. If his Republican colleagues agree with him, Mr. Hiscock will lead off in the next meeting of the committee on Thursday in opposition to sending any more sub-committees to the Southern States, or spending any more of the people's money in the vain attempt to throw a little mud on the Re-

It has been suggested this afternoon that Mr. Potter himself would be rather glad than otherwise to go to Louisiana just now, especially if he sould be sure that during his absence the cipher telegram business could be taken up by these mem-

bers of the committee who remain here, and be dis-

posed of. The failure of the Democrats of the committee to make any reference to the one subject in which there is any popular interest has been attributed by some to the continued absence of General Butler, of whom the Democrats seem to be much afraid. The opinion has come to be universal in Washington that the General has or can control the originals of the cipher telegrams which THE TRIBUNE has printed and translated. The Democrats had a theory a week ago that in the bundle of dispatches which General Butler brought into the committee room last June were both Democratic and Republican messages, and that when the General arrives in Washington be will turn his guns against the party with which he has been until recently associated. This theory, which many of the Democrats were very anxious to believe, has now been abandoned. A story is started every day or two that Republican documents bave been discovered, but it is only to be contradicted, and the Democrats have given up the hope of catching the Republicans in that way.

An explanation of the inactivity of the Democrats of the Potter Committee in starting an inquiry about the ciphers that is more likely to be correct, than that which attributes it to hope or fear in regard to what General Butler may have in his mysterious bundle, is this: Mr. Potter, it is said, is unwilling to seem to be seeking new fields of exploration in just the direction in which the cipher dispatches point. He will not, therefore, set on foot an investication of this kind unless he is directed to do so by the House. He thinks that his committee was appointed for a specific surpose, so those say who advance this theory, which did not include the examination of the Democratic cipher dispatches, and that he is no more called upon to volunteer to take up that subject than any one of several other committees is. The beinef, founded on the best information attainable, is that the Potter Committee will not go into an inquiry in regard to the cipher dispatches voluntarily; but after a while it is thought some Democratic member will call the attention of the House to the subject, and that then the Potter Committee will be instructed to take up the matter and report upon it. What makes the Democrate particularly uncomfortable is that the Republicans will not filibuster against the passage of such a resolution. about the ciphers that is more likely to be correct,

### PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL GOSSIP.

THE RECEPTIONS OF MRS. HAYES-A FIGHT OVER THE ST. LOUIS POST OFFICE-SECRETARY THOMPSON-MR. HILLHOUSE-MR. BAKER'S PLACE.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 10 .- Mrs. Hayes will resume er Saturday afternoon receptions on the 4th of

The nemination of Mr. Hillhouse to be Assistant United States Treasurer at New-York was considered by the Senate Finance Committee to-day. It was agreed to report the same to the Senate with a favorable recommendation.

Colonel Samuel Hays, Postmaster at St. Lonis, is here looking after his confirmation by the Senate. Colonel Hays was appointed Postmaster during the vacation of Congress and was the acknowledged selection of Secretary Schurz. Mr. Filley, it may be remembered, was removed because of his alleged violation of the Civil Service rules. being accused of using his office political purposes. Since his removal he has been hard at work to secure the rejection of the nomination of Colonel Hays. The nomination was sent to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads and was then referred to Senator Kirkwood. of Iowa. The latter said to-day that he has received many complaints and replies thereto, and is waiting until all are in before he decides upon his re port to the committee. From the nature of his remarks it is inferred that he is disposed to make an unfavorable report on the nomination. It is believed that the two Missouri Democratic Senators will not oppose the confirma-tion of Colonel Hays, It is expected, how ever, that there will be a contest over the case. Both Postmaster-General Key and Assistant-Postmaster-General Tyner were opposed to Mr. Filley's

Although Secretary Thompson has been in very regular attendance upon his official duties since his recent sickness, he has not entirely recovered his usual health. Lately the Secretary has been suffering from a slight rheumatic attack which has been aggravated within a day or two by the disagreeable weather that has prevailed,

It is not yet known who will succeed Mr. Baker Chief of the Loan Division of the Treasury Delaws governing National loans and finances generally. There are several applicants for the position. Some of the Treasury employes in this city are inclined to the belief that the position will not be filled by any one at present employed in the loan branch of the Eepartment. sibility, and requires an accurate knowledge of the laws governing National loans and finances gener-

#### ENGINEERING WORK AT NEW-YORK. EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF GENERAL NEWTON -A BREAKWATER OFF THE HARBOR-NEWTOWN

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 .- The annual report of the Chief-Engineer contains some interesting information in regard to the progress of work under the direction of General Newton in the vicinity of New-

The amount of broken rock removed at Hallett's Point during the last fiscal year was 23,258 tops.

In response to a resolution passed by the House of Representatives during the last session, directing the Secretary of War to report upon needed improvements along the south coast of Long Island be tween Rockaway Inlet and Coney Island Point, General Newton writes:
The coasts of Long Island and of New-Jersey, meetin

General Newton writes:

The coasts of Long Island and of New-Jersey, meeting at the bar at Sandy Hook; limit a water area which is exposed to the severest gales (from the northeast around to the south) which desolate this coast. The line specified under the resolution is but five and a half miles in length from the point of Coney Island to Rockaway Inlet, and every part of it being in the immediate neighborhood of the entrance to the harbor of New-York. The question would naturally arise, what necessity under such circumstances could there be for the construction of a break water. Goviously, only under the contingency which would belong to a very severe storm of the waves breaking on the bar, and thus preventing the passage of the temperat-tossed vessels to the natural harbor within. The position for a break water under this aspect of things along the portion of the construction the passage of water the line facing the southeast. This line would if prolonged, intersect at short distances the shore of Long Island and Sandy Hook, and would thus have its flanks protected from dangerous seas. Rockaway Institution of the construction would be west of Rockaway Institutions and the shore of Long Island and Sandy Hook, and would thus have its flanks protected from dangerous seas. Rockaway Institution is however continually advancing westward, accompanied by immense shoals of moving sand which are gradually restricting and may finelly obliterate the deep water area suitable for a break vater and now lying between the Inlet and Coney Island Point, rendering it necessary thereby to fix the location in deeper water and in a more exposed position. \* \*

First—A breakwater along this section of the coast will be needed only when the waves break on the bur at Sandy Hook and make a run into New-York bay dangerous or impossible.

Second—The advance of the inlet and shools westward

will be needed only when the waves breat on the bir at sandy Hook and midde a run into New-York bay dangerous or impossible.

Second—The advance of the fulet and shouls westward will probably interfers with the future use of the breakwaier, unless the position of this structure be advanced into deep water sufficiently far to avoid such a result. The channel leading into Rockaway fulet is now straight and maintains the considerable depth of fifteen feet over the bar, which is amply sufficient for all present and future commercial purposes. Although the motion westward of the linet and its channel cannot be prevented nevertheless such direction and shape to thus channel can be preserved as may be found by experience to accompany and belong to the greatest draught over its blar. There is a strong probability that sooner or later the inlet will close for commercial purposes, and hence the mode of improvement should be inexpensive, as recommerciad in the report.

The information to be obtained and bearing upon the subjects considered, although indicative of certain general results, is altogether insufficient for a complete solution of the questions formally presented, and of those arising from a consideration of the subject; and further examinations intelligently directed may largely monity certain conclusions now considered altogether probable.

Touching the examination ordered by the House

Touching the examination ordered by the House of Representatives to determine whether any deposits have occurred at the piers near the junction of Newtown Creek and the East River calculated to onstruct navigation, and if so, the probable cost of removing the same, General Newton reports:

removing the same, General Newton reports:

Notwithstanding the fact that no funds were granted with which to conduct an examination, certain information, not complete, however, had been collected on which to base an opinion. A comparison of present soundings with those of 1856/57 shows a general as well as consideratels sliting up of the creek, and the inference is that this diminution of depth is due to reclaiming lands under water, and thus diminishing the tidal area. The bridge at the foot of Vernon-ave. is a

# NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1878.

great obstruction to the flow of the tides and should be essentially modified or removed; and it is reported that there are two other bridges above this which likewise interfere with the tides.

In reply to the resolution of Congress it must be stated that deposits have occurred at the piers near the junction of Newtown Creek and the East River; and that the probable cost of removal to a depth of fourteen feet at mean low water would be \$2,000. The City of Brooking coursins within its limits three channels which penetrate into the neart of the city and are of great utility in affording isding pieces at conventent points for heavy goods, and thereby diminishing the amount of truckage and expense required for their distribution. Two of these, the Gowanus and Wallabout Canals, are completely or nearly bulkheaded and may be regarded as finished. The third, Bushwick Creek, is very little better than a swamp, and the intention has not seen developed either to canalize it like the former two or to fill tup for conversion into building lots. Newtown Creek, simated between Brooklyn and Long Island City, not only subserves the purpose of a communication to the interior of these edites, and thus aids in the cheap distribution of goods, but is claimed likewise as a proper channel for vessels of heavy draught to load at the wharves upon its banks.

THE HOUSE AMAZINGLY BUSY.

THE HOUSE AMAZINGLY BUSY. TWO MORE APPROPRIATION BILLS DISPOSED OF AND TWO OTHERS SOON TO BE.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 .- The House of Repreentatives was in an industrious mood again to-day. The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was agreed to in Committee of the Whole, and was passed after having been increased \$12,700 over the amount fixed by the committee. The Naval bill was then taken up. Many of its provisions were agreed upon without debate or amendment, and the bill was passed. At this rate the House will have no difficulty in finishing at least six of the regular appropriation bills before the holiday recess.

#### THE BLAINE RESOLUTION. IT IS TO BE CALLED UP TO-DAY FOR DISCUSSION.

IBY TELLGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 10.—Senator Blaine will call up the resolution which he introduced on the first day of the session at 1 o'clock to-morrow, and will make a brief speech in support of it. The resolution which the Republican Caucus Committee has had under consideration is not the one offered by Mr. Blaine about Southern elections. It is one offered by Mr. Edmunds about the sanctity of the Constiby Mr. Edmands about the sanctify of the Contributional Amendments. The committee, of which Mr. Edmands and Mr. Blaine are both members, has been considering the latter, but that of Mr. Blaine has not been discussed either by caucus or the committee, as has been widely reported.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MR. ROBESON. DEMOCRATIC PROPOSITION THAT THE EX-SECRE-TARY BE INDICTED.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 10 .- The Democratic members of the House Committee on Naval Affairs submitted their report in the Robeson case to the Republican members of that committee to-day. They made the request that the Republicans decide immediately what course shall be pursued. The Republicans will hold a meeting on Friday for its consideration. The Democratic report recommends the indictment of ex-Secretary Robeson for irregularities in the management of his department during General Grant's administration.

#### CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. VIEWS ON THE INDIAN QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1878. General William H. Lyon, of New-York, a member of the Purchasing Committee of the Board of Indian Commissioners, testified about transferring the Indian Bureau to the War Department to-day. He opposed the transfer on the ground that Army officers are not educated in the line of civilization. He said he had a pro-found respect for the officers of the Army, and thought it would be very ungenerous for a great nation like ours to ask a man who devoted the best portion of his life as a soldier to accept a position as Indian agent. He would as readily think of transferring the public schools of New-York City to the Police Department because there were some unruly children to be dealt with as to transfer the Indian Bureau to military management. As a body, he considered the Indian areats incompetent rather than dishonest. Mr. Harclay White, representing the Society of Friends at the Winnebase Agency. Nothinsky, ages in selection to the transfer, General Hooker submitted a letter from General Marcy making some importanteorrections in a previous comminication tendered by that gentleman to the commission, ludge Bosone desired to incorporate in the testimenty a report to the Secretary of War by General McFeeley, contrasting the costs of various supplies made by the War Popular and With those of the Indian Intreas. Mr. Von Vorhes, however, thought to better that General McFeeley appear before the committee, which was flustly fige ed unon, and for this purpose the committee will meet to-mistrow. transfer the Indian Bureau to mil tary management. As

SECRETARY SHERMAN VISITS A COMMITTEE. Secretary Sherman was before the Committee of Ways and Means to-day, and gave his views concerning the bill heretofore introduced by Representative

#### WASHINGTON NOTES. Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1878.

Advices to the Internal Revenue office from Atlanta, Ga., report a recent extensive raid through Cherokee County in that State, during which a number of distil leries were captured and several thousand gallons of much and beer destroyed by the raiding parties.

The House Military Committee, this morning, agreed to a bill granting twenty condemned cannon for the custer monument at Wesi Point.

The Treasury Department is in receipt of information

that, unless cattle shipped from the United States to Great Britain have Government health certificates when subarked, slaughter will be compelled on landing. The Controller of the Currency has received applica-

al economy.

The bill offered to-day by Mr. Lamar, "to establish a Department of Public Health," provides for the estabshment of a department to acquire and diffuse among

ishment of a department to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with the public health, and to direct the management of efficient and canitary quarantine systems throughout the a-veral States and Territories. It authorizes the appointment of a Director-General at a salary of \$7,500 per annual, who shall perform all the duties and exercise all the powers now d-w iving upon the Supervising Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service, and that he latter office shall be absoluted. The Director-General shall also make and enforce all quarantine and other regulations for the prevention of evidence diseases.

The Scate Committee appointed to investigate allegatives acquared Senate Matthews, decided looks to defer

tions against Senator Matthews, decided to-day to defer

### TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

THE TROOPS CALLED OUT IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 10.—Governor McCreary
has ordered part of the State military Breathitt County.

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE fire. MR. MURRAY.
BOSTON, Dec. 10.—The Golden Rule, edited by the

BOSION, Dec. 10.— The trouble have, circle by what say weekly. It will be printed as a mostily magazine.

FOUR TONS OF MAILS BLOCKADED.

SAN FRANCIS: O. Dec. 10.—Owing to a failure of the contractors, a ton of mail matter has accumulated at the Prescot Post Office, and three tons have accumulated at Ehrenberg.

Ehrenberg.

GOVERNOR MCCLELLAN BUSY ON HIS MESSAGE.

TERNYON, N. J., D. c. 10.—Governor McClellan is
moving from his Summer residence at Orange to this city,
where he will remain during the Winter and Spring. He is
now at work on his message.

THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE PERFLEXED.

K CHMOND. Dec. 10.—in the House to-day the oint resolution passed by the Senate, that the present session as a regular one, was defeated by the adoption of the subditate that it is a regular and constitutional session.

SUIT FOR \$40.000 FOR CIVIL DAMAGES.

ALBANY, Dec. 10.—Mrs. Elizabeth Casey, of obleskill, has prought suit for \$40.000 under the Civil bamages Act. The plaintiffs husband was turned out of soundenstine's saloou and Rilled by a railroad train.

Boandenstine's saloon and sinied by a railroad train.

ENTHUSIASM THAT SHOWERS DO NOT DAUNT.

RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 10.—Despite the drenching rain the members of the shrewsbury Gun Club met to day the schening of wood, and shot off their regular semi-month contest for the gold champienship badge. John B. Berger

won.

TROUBLE ABOUT THE LOUISIANA INTEREST.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 10.—The Fiscal Agent of the
State declines to comply with the resolution of the Funding
Board requesting him to pay the January coupons on the
State consols. State consols.

BOSTON, Dec. 10.—The will of the late Joseph B.
Eatou leaves \$50,000 to the Young Men's Christian Union, upon condition that there shall be raised enough more to leave the institution free of debt. The condition can be readily compiled with.

THE TROUBLES OF A NANTUCKET BANK.
BOSTON, Dec. 10.—The Nantucket institution for
Savings has been ordered not to pay more than 10 per cent
of its deposite each six months for the coming year. The
principal loss is upon inprudent real estate leans to the
amount of some \$60,000 or \$70,000.

### WINTER'S FIRST STORM.

ITS GREAT EXTENT AND VIOLENCE. EFFECTS IN THIS CITY AND SUBURBAN TOWNS FURY OF THE GALE ALONG THE ATLANTIC

COAST - PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF RAILROAD TRAFFIC AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION. The storm in the city yesterday was severe, and while no serious accidents were reported, there was much discomfort. The rainfall was heavy. The fall of the mercury in the barometer was remarkable. There were reports of damage to temporary structures at Coney Island, and tide provailed. The storm high felt with great violence on the Atlantic coast from Virginia to New-Jersey, while inland it extended as far westward as Ohio, and as far northward as Vermont. The principal rivers in this area are flooded, the Hudson and Susquehanna being very full at some points. Traffic has been partially suspended on the Hudson River Railroad. Telegraphic ommunication was much interrupted.

## HIGH TIDE IN THE HUDSON.

PART OF THE RAILROAD WASHED OUT-TRAFFIC SUSPENDED.

POUGHEFEPSIE, N. Y., Dec. 10 .- A heavy southeast rain-storm has prevailed along the Hudson since noon yesterday. To-day the tide was the highest of any experienced for years, and the piers and wharves were everywhere submerged. Passengers from the steamer Martin were landed in small boats. All the streams leading into the Hudson are heavily swollen. In many places the track of the Hudson River Railroad is submerged, and forty feet of the track have been washed out south of Garrison's, near Highland Station, and no train has come north of the break since 1:45 p. m. to-day. A wrecking train and gangs of men have gone there, and expect to get trains through by midnight.

Further reports from below state that another washout has occurred near Peekskill, and the down-track of the New-York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company is disabled by high water The first Pacific express has been sent ou of New-York over the Harlem Road. The New-York special train leaving here at 4:50 p. m., the way train leaving here at 3:50 p. m., and the 7:35 p. m. express, all bound south, are lying this side of Peekskill, and may not get through to-night. The next high-water occurs at 2 a, m., but the water is now very high and still rising. More damage is apprehended before daylight, as several minor washouts are reported south of here. No serious trouble is reported from the north.

#### KINGSTON IN DANGER. PEOPLE MOVING TO HIGH GROUND,

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. KINGSTON, N.Y., Dec. 10.-There has been a terrible rain-storm here. Esopus Creek north of the city is overflowing. Part of the city is under water. People are moving to higher ground their fur-niture and provisions. The safety of the bridge will occasion anxiety if the rain continues.

### PART OF ELMIRA UNDER WATER.

EIMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 10 .- It has rained here for the past twenty-four hours. The Chemung River is higher than it has been for years. Newtown Creek has overflowed its banks, and the lower part of the city is under water. Hoffman Creek is also over-flowed. Much damage has been done.

### FLOOD IN THE MOHAWK.

UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 10.—Heavy rain has fallen almost incessantly during the past thirty-six hours, and is still pouring. The Mohawk River is rising. but no damage has been reported thus far. The Chenango River, at Sherburne, is higher than at any time since 1865. Railroad and other bridges in the valley are threatened. Some private property is damaged and more is in danger.

#### FLOODS IN ORANGE COUNTY, N. Y. RESERVOIR OVERFLOWING-A BRIDGE CARRIED AWAY.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Dec. 10 .- The heavy rain which began failing yesterday morning still con-tinues, and is causing unprecedented freshets in all streams in this vicinity as well as obstructing both railway and highway travel. The entlet of the reservoir of the Port Jervis Water Company is overflowing its banks the Port Jerves water company is over an action and doing much damage to property. The Neversink R ver at Cuddlebuckville, on the line of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, is overflowing its banks, cutting of travel to this place. Trains are losing time by running cantionsly over the Delaware Division of the Eric Railrand, but, as yet there has been no serious detention.

#### FIERCE GALE ON THE JERSEY COAST. HEAVY RAIN AND A DENSE MIST-BUILDINGS FLOODED AT SOUTH AMBOY.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Dec. 10 .- At noon today the rain storm, which has continued without cessa-tion since Sunday night, suddenly changed into a gale. The wind, which was blowing from the east, increased gradually in velocity until 3 o'clock, when it blew a perfect tornado. It was accompanied by heavy rain and a dense mist. The life-saving stations between Squan and Sandy Hook report that there have been no marine accidents, but the damage all along the southern shore by wind and rain is reported very great. Between this place and the Horseshoe the storm was the most severe, but the only damage done was the carrying away of a few bathing-houses, the overturning of Summer-houses and the flooding of several fishermen's hots at Sallalee, and the flooding of several fishermen's hots at Sailalee, near Seabright. The Sandy Hook boat made only the one trip at S \(\text{a}\), m., as after that it was too perious to cross the bay, and all travel over the Southern Railroad between New-York and Long Branch was suspended, South and Perth Amboy suffered much by the waters of Earlian Bay, which flooded the buildings along the bay

Raritan Bay, which flooded the buildings along the bay or ek.

Biween Monmouth Beach and Asbury Park, huge patches of the occan bluff have been washed away, and the busch is energed in many places. The uprooting of ceduratees, overturning of bath-houses and the blowing of own of fonces is the only damage reported from Ocean Grave and Deal Beach. In the vicinity of Spring Lake and Seasaquan, the sterm toward night was most severe, it then having veered around to the southeast. The force of the storm has blocked up the old inlet from the squan River to the sea, but it also opened a new inlet much broader and of greater depth than the old one, and one in which coasting vessels of light fraught can enter. Icong fat the wind as blowing a stiff gale from the southeast, but the rain has censed.

LONG BRANCH, Dec. 10—7 b. m.—There has been a furtious gale this afternoon from the southeast, accompany to the tartents of cain since car't this morning.

rious gale this afternoon from the southeast, accompa-nied with tarrents of rain since early this morning. Now the wind has shifted to southwest and the weather is clearing up. No disasters have been reported on land r sea in this yielfulty. RED BANK, N. J., Dec. 10.—A: unusually severe storm

### EXCITEMENT IN VERMONT. THE WHETSTONE AND THE CONNECTICUT RISING-A

BRATTLEBORO, Vt., Dec. 10.—One of the everest storms since the eventful flood of 1869 has prevailed since yesterday morning, when it began with snow, continuing until 9 p.m., when it changed to heavy rain, which still continues with unabated fury. The Whetstone, at the lower end of the village, ans rapidly risen, until at the lower end of the village, ans rapidly risen, until now the water is nearly as high as it was ever seen in this stream. Most of the inhabitants in that vicinity have been removed in boats, with portions of their personal effects, to places of safety. At the present time it is impossible to estimate the damage. A large three-story building has fallen into the stream, and is a total wreck. It is thought no lives were lost, though the building fell without warding. The water is stail rising. The rain continues without abatement, and the Connecticut River is rising rapidly. Great excitement prevails here.

#### NO FLOOD AT PROVIDENCE, R. I. THE STORM ABATES IN GOOD TIME-A BUILDING WRECKED.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 10 .- A southeast gale of uncommon severity, accompanied by a heavy rain, prevailed here this afternoon, with the highest tide of the season. This evening the gale abated just in time to prevent a serious overflow of the docks. A large building on Carpenterst, formerly Huntoon's cigar store, which was blocked up preparatory to removal, was wrecked by the wind; the loss is \$3,000.

A FREIGHT TRAIN IN THE WATER.

NARROW ESCAPE OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN.

GREENFIELD, Mass., Dec. 10,-The locomo-

and Greenfield Railroad ran into a 50 foot washout this afternoon at West Deerfield. George Field, the enthis afternoon at West Deerfield. George read, the egineer, was seriously injured by striking a telegraph pole in jumping off. The east-bound express train, the pole in jumping off. The east-bound express train, the world probably have rushed into the washout had it not been warned by the mishap to the extra. West-bound trains will be delayed until after midnight.

### FLOODS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

THE SUSQUEHANNA, LEHIGH AND ECHUYLKILL RIV-ERS THREATENING TO OVERFLOW.

LOCK HAVEN, Penn., Dec. 10.-It has been aming here since yesterday morning. The West Brauch at this point has been rising at the rate of nine inches per nour since poon, and is now seven and a half feet above low-water mark. A serious overflow is feared. Bald Eagle Creek has overflowed its nanks, and is flooding the lower end of the city. Reports from Clearfield say the river is rising ten inches per hour. All the small streams are very high.

THE SUSQUEHANNA RISING. WILLIAMSPORT, Penn, Dec. 10.—The West Branch of the Susquehanna River at this place is fourteen feet above low-water mark, and is rising fifteen inches an iour. At Westport the banks are full, and the water is still rising. Lycoming Creek is very high, and some por tions of Newberry are reported under water.

THE LEHIGH RIVER FLOODED. MAUCH CHUNK, Penn., Dec. 10.-The Lehigh River is eight feet above low water mark, and still rising. No lamage has been reported yet.

THE SCHUYLKILL FLOODING. READING, Penu., Dec. 10.-The Schuylkill River, in onsequence of recent rains, has risen five feet above ow-water mark. Unless the rain continues no serious

A SEVERE STORM AT TRENTON, N. J. TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 10 .- A severe southeast storm has been raging here for the past twenty-

HEAVY RAIN ON THE VIRGINIAN COAST. Norfolk, Va., Dec. 10.-A heavy ram-storm egan in this section last night. The fall of rain is very

#### EFFECTS IN THIS CITY AND VICINITY. HEAVY RAINFALL WITH HIGH WINDS-REMARK

ABLE CHANGE IN THE BAROMETER - DISCOM-FORTS AND ACCIDENTS.

The storm that swept over the city yesteray was not unexpected, but its violence surpr very one. The morning broke through beavy masses of clouds, from which the rain descended in fitful showers. It was not long before the wind freshened into a gale from the southeast and became a new element of discomfort. Storm alguais had been raised at the United States Signal Service Bureau on the Equitable Building, at midnight, to warn vessels in the harbor of the impending danger. Before 6 o'clock Dr. Donhauser discovered that the wind was blowing so strong as to endanger the flag-pole on which the large red flag was flying. With considerable difficulty the flag was attained a velocity of forty-eight miles, and it was almost impossible to stand on the roof of the butlaing. The rain continued to descend in torrents. At intervals there would be slight cossations; then the fury of the storm would break out anew. The gutters of the streets were flooded, and at many of the street corners pools of water collected and proved sources of great annoyance, Persons who were obliged to walk out suffered much discomfort. The force of the wind did not decrease much until afternoon, and the gale continued to blow from the southeast. The velocity was about forty miles an hour at 1 o'clock, and this was regarded as the average velocity for the day. At 4 o'clock the wind blew in gusts at an average rate of twenty miles an hour, with

The streets along both river fronts were in many places overflowed, particularly the ferry approaches in the vicinity of Fulton and Washington Markets; it was only by the use of temporary footbridges thas pedestrians were enabled to reach the ferry-boats. Many of the cellars were also filled. The large fleet of vessels anchored off the Battery, in Gravesend Bay, and the "Horsesboe," near Sandy Hook, were douly secured by extra anchors, and the uneasy motion caused by the high waves was too great to be enjoyed by those on board. The waves broke over the Battery wall and the plers; and where there was any freight on the piers it was protected by heavy water-proof coverings. Very few vessels passed Sandy Hook during the day, and the Sandy Hook steamer connecting with the New-Jersey Southern Railroad discontinued her morning trips because of the heavy sea. No Fall River steamer reached the city, the down steamer having come as far as Newport and face returned to Fall River. The St.n.ngton steamer Massachusetts came through all right, re-ching here about an hom behind schedule time. She reported heavy weather on the Sound.

The sterm was accompanied by a remarkable change in the barometer. For several days previous to the storm the mercary had stood at 30.35; on Monelay morning it begin to fall, it stood at 29.50 yesterday morning, showing a decime of over half an inch. Between 3 o'clock yesterday morning and 4 o'clock in the atternout it ell nearly an kets; it was only by the use of temporary

frequent changes in its direction.

29.50 yesterday norming, showing a decline of over half an inch. Between 3 o'clock yesterday morning and 4 o'clock in the altermoon it fell nearly an mea further, and last evening it stood at 28.50, the lowest point which it has reached in this city for several years. Dr. Doubauser said last evening that a fall of over an inch and a half in the barometer, in such a short time, was a most musual occurrence. In all his experience as a Signal Service officer he had never observed such a change. Changes of the broome er were more rapid on the occan than on the land, he said; but even at sea nothing short of a cyclone would cause the barometer to fail an inch and a half in thirty-six hours. The unusual change in the barometer corresponded somewhat with the rainfail, which was about two inches. Nearly an inca and a half of ram fell during yesterday. The weather was warm. About hoon the thermometer indicated 58°; at midnight it was 44°. The average was 54°; a year aro It was 36°4°. The reports which came to the signal Service Bureau last evening showed that the storm had been very general throughout the country. It began in the southwest and was centred in Arkansis on Sunday. It continued to move in anortheasterly direction, speeding gradually over the entire country. Its force was felt severely in the South Atlantic States. In many of the Southern States the reports showed heavy rains, while show and rain prevailed in the North and West. An inch and a half or rain fell at Albany, and at Boston, where the wind had a velocity of forty miles per hour, there was ninch of rain. There was also heavy rain at Porthand, Mc. No reports were received from New-Lenson on account of the elegraph wires having been blown down. Reports from Cairo, Ill., Indianapolis, Ind., Keokuk, Iowa, Leavenworth, Kan, St. Louis, Mo., Vicksburg, Miss., and Shreveport, La., were also missing. From inquiries at the offices of the Atlantic and Pacific and Western Union Tolegraph Companies it was learned that the storm had caused nuch delay in sending on. The damage caused by the storm in the city was not

neath the skylight only a moment or two previously, and in the basement two painters were at work within a few feet of the spot where the stone struck. The west wall of a new building in course of erection on One-hundred-and-sixy-second-st., near Tenth-ave., was blown down, causing some excitament, but injuring no One. Two smal but dinnes in p.ocess of crection as Nos. 136 and 138 W-zt F-xy-z-0-dat. were also overare. do, but no person was injured. The roof of an unfinished but along in Avenue-A, between Eighty-first and Eighty-second-sts., was brown off and co. and o the southwest corner of Eighty-second-st., where it fell on the Mein dist Church. The cnurch, a frame building, was badly wreeked, and the rain that fest in torrects made the walls of the unroofed building unsafe. The damage is estimated at \$1.500. The police informed the Building Department, and took measures to prevent accidents during the night.

The storm was very severe in Brooklyn, but no serious damage was reported. The severes in many places were unable to carry off the water, and consequently numerous cellars were flooded, especially at the E-stern District. There was a dangerous break in Secenth-st., near Grandst. It was reported early in the day that great damage had been caused at Coney Island, but the reports were found to be much exage-rated. The water rose unasually high, but none of the permanent and recently built structures were injured, so far as could be ascertamed. The Mannatan Brach Hotel was entirely surrounded by water, and the railroad running along the shore to the eastern end of the Island was submerged. The Atlantic Garden was somewhat damaged, as were also several other pavilions west of Cable's. A number of ancient bathing-houses and other buildings which Coney Island can well spare were carried out to sea.

The sea swept upon the shore with great force and damaged the Concourse along the water damage of ancient bathing-houses and other buildings which Coney Island can well spare were carried out to sea.

The sea swep

### FEES IN PUBLIC OFFICES.

RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE REPORT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION COMMIT-

TEE-MANY INSTANCES OF ILLEGAL CHARGES GIVEN-INCREASING THE COMMITTEE'S POWERS. The Bar Association listened to a report last evening from a committee on the fees asked in the offices of the Register, County Clerk and Sheriff. The committee reported that illegal fees were demanded and, gave examples of over charges in the several offices. A resolution was passed enlarging the powers of the committee and requesting it to continue its labors.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING.

THE COMMITTEE FINDS THAT ILLEGAL FRES WERE EX-ACTED-AMUSING BILLS OF THE SHERIFF-THE REGISTER MAKES A HALF-WAY REFORM.

The rooms of the Bar Association in West I wenty-ninth-st. were moderately well filled last night with members who had assembled to hear the report of the committee appointed in September last to receive testimony in regard to the alleged filegal fees of the Sheriff, the Register and the County Clerk. Of the committee, which comprises Artemus H. Holmes, Charles F. Maclean, H. W. Kuox, George DeForest Lord, and J. Adriance Bush, all the members were present except Mr. Lord, who is absent from the city.

Lewis L. Delafield presided over the meeting. Mr. Holmes read the report. It was hetened to throughout with apparently great interest. The committee's description of the conflicts with the necused officers to obtain information about the charges excited much laughter. A correspondence with County Clerk Gumbieton, wherein the latter was elaborately polite but clusive in regard to a request for permission to cross-examine his clerks, was found very amusing. Mr. Rolmes read these portions of the report in a quietly sarcastic tone of voice that was very

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

After giving the resolution under which the committee was appointed, Mr. Holmes read the report, which in substance was as follows:

Although the task undertaken by the committee has not been wholly accomplished, it is deemed test to make a report in order that the association may give the committee further instructions. Many members of this as-sociation offered documentary and other evidence. A large number, however, refused to appear before the committee personally, for fear of the consequences to themselves and their clients. From perconal visits of the committee and from other sources, however, it was clearly shown that irregularities existed, and as the officials expressed a willingness to have their departments examined, the investigation was began. The Register is required by law to keep a book containing a record of the fees taken and the services rendered by his office. On examination, this book was found to be kept inexactly, and hauled down and a smaller one raised in its place. The not in substantial compliance with the law wind-guage showed a velocity of about twenty-five in the 500 cases which were looked over, miles an hour at the time. Ey 9 o'clock the wind had excessive charges were shown with very rare exceptions. Almost immediately after Mr. Loew took the office a schedule of charges was drawn up, by which the copylst was to receive one fee and the Register another. The legal charge for recording was 10 cents a folio. For recording a power of attorney covering ten folios, and for which \$1 was paid to the copyist, \$1 25 was charged. In another case \$2 was charged, where only \$1 20 should have been asked. In still another instance \$3.70 was charged where the cost should have been \$2 50. Mr. Loew, however, declared that he had not seen this list of charges. When the cash books used prior to the appointment of the committee of investigation were asked for the committee was told that they had been jost and could not be found. The books at the office, however, showed unmistakably that excessive

fees have been exacted. A visit was then made to the Sheriff's office. Of the manner in which this office has been conducted the com-mittee received many complaints from both lawyers and laymen, those of the latter being under a pledge of and layinen, those of the secreey. The Sheriff and his deputies showed that they were well acquainted with the emoluments of their offices and with the law relating thereto; and the Sheriff and Order-of-Arrest Clerk said it would be impossible to carry on the office with the legal fees. We learned that the deputy-sheriffs receive no salaries, but are allowed certain fees. The results of this system are seen in the account, sales, in every one of which are illegal charg's. For instance, under an execution for \$8,670-44, with interest of \$1,084 90, amounting to \$9,755 34, the right, title and interest on a certain property was sold for \$9,970. The Sheriff's bill was as follows:

 
 Poundage
 \$125 06
 Certificate of sale
 \$20 25

 L vy and retura
 2 69
 Compensation
 27 41

 Advertising
 19 25
 Total
 \$214 66

 Notice of sale
 20 00
 Total
 \$214 66
 Deducting this from the whole amount leaves \$9,-755 34, which just satisfied the judgment.

In another case the contents of a bakery were sold, leaving \$128, to satisfy a judgment of \$93. The Sherin's fees were \$35, leaving just enough to meet the judgment. In still another case, the Sacrif's bill

755 34, which just estished the Judgment.

In another case the contents of a bakery were sold, leaving \$128, to estisfy a judgment of \$93. The sheriff's bild amounted to \$214 60, again barely satisfying the judgment. In still another case, the Sheriff's bild amounted to \$214 60, again barely satisfying the judgment. These instances might be multiplied without end. The Order of Arrest Clerk admitted that 374, cents was the legal fee for a oai-bond, while \$11.75 wis actually charged. He also admitted that the sums received were divided between himself and his subordinates, and that he had discharged four for not dividing fairly with him. Turce visits were made to the Lugliow Street Jul, and the books were asked for, as the committee had been told that they would reveal extortion. The reply was made that these books had been destroyed, and that now the accounts were kept on sheets of paper which were destroyed at the end of each month. The jail seemed to be managed for profit, without regard to the law, and a thorough investigation was advisable.

The County Clerk was visited on November 23, and an investigation was made in the cases of mechanies' liens. When the books containing the accounts of resewer asked for the committee was told that there were no such books but only memoranda kept on leaving of paper that were thrown away after word. This was the only account kept. The County Clerk sud he had hardly thought that there was to be so earching and thorough and investigation, and suggested that it would be well to return to his private office. In one case a charre 150 per cent was the well of such as a charre 150 per cent of cases a charre 150 per cent of the case and the sud would be well to return to his private office. In one case a charre 150 per cent of the charmattee word of the word of the first of the charges which the law and the paper with the summary of the committee word of the county Clerk said that it would be well or server and the paper and the committee of so honorable a body as the Bar Associa

ing. G. W. Wingate moved as an amendment that the United States Register in Bankruptcy be included United States Register in Bankruptey be included in the investigation. George H. Yeaman said that the abuses were old abuses, and that the lawyers of the city were culpable for having endured them. He did not taink that the association wanted the scalp of a public officer who would reform his office. The committee ought to be given discretionary power in this respect.

Ex-Judge Peabody said that he was opposed to compute aing offices. If the accused officers were guilty they ought to be punished. The committee and no more power than other citizens to appear before the Grand Jury about such a matter. He was decighted with the report

large vote.
G. H. Arr
authority
the Regn.
The accorded ended here, and the resolution authorizing
the investigating committee to continue its labors was
passed by a large majority.